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GORE-LEGAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Campbell et al.
Appl. No. : 09/510,937
Filed : 2/22/00
Title : Thin-Wall Polytetrafluoroethylene Tube

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark
Office on February 4, 2004.*

Melanie Williams
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Group Art Unit : 1772
Examiner : Nolan, Sandra M.

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Sir:

The following is in response to the Office Action of Aug. 4, 2003.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 3.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 4.

S.N. 09/510,937

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/247,960 filed May 24, 1994, now Patent No. 6,027,779, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/204,708 filed March 2, 1994, now Patent No. 6,025,044, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/108,963 filed August 18, 1993, now Patent No. 6,159,565.

S.N. 09/510,937

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

Please cancel the previous Abstract (page 21) and replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

A thin-wall PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) tube in the form of a tube of porous expanded PTFE film wherein the porous PTFE film has a microstructure containing a multiplicity of fibrils. The thin-wall tube is used in a non-porous embodiment as the balloon portion of a balloon catheter. The thin-wall tube is not elastomeric; however, because of the thinness, strength and flexibility of the tube, it may be inserted into a body conduit in a collapsed state and then deployed from a catheter and inflated up to the maximum diameter of the thin-wall tube. The porous PTFE film is provided with a continuous layer of adhesive to provide the non-porous tube; the adhesive is preferably a thermoplastic and more preferably a thermoplastic fluoropolymer such as fluorinated ethylene propylene.